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modified without much greater social changes than would be the case if but little or no land lies at the margin of cultivation. There is, to my mind, no one thing that so much determines the opinions of each economist concerning the problems of distribution as does his decision upon this question of the amount of no-rent land.

SIMON N. PATTEN.

Strafensystem und Gefängnisswesen in England. Von Dr. P. F. ASCHROTT, Amtsrichter. Berlin und Leipzig. Verlag von S. Gutten- tag, 1887.—xx, 311 pp.

This book, as its title indicates, is divided into two parts, each of which treats of a separate and distinct portion of the general science of penology. The first is devoted to a short description of the criminal law and procedure and the organization of the criminal courts of England, while the second gives an elaborate account of the prison system as at present organized. In the first part many of the various questions that come up for consideration are treated from the historical standpoint. Thus the matter of transportation of convicts, although for a number of years it has totally ceased to be made use of, is treated with a good deal of detail on account of the great influence it has had not only in the criminal law but also on the prison system of England. No one who has devoted attention to this sort of questions can fail to recognize the great value which a book acquires from this method of treatment. Things which otherwise would never be quite clear to the reader are brought out in such a way as to make it absolutely impossible for them to be misunderstood, while at the same time the interest of the book as a bit of *culturgeschichte* is very much enhanced.

But whatever may be the value of the first part of the work as an epitome of English criminal institutions, it is in the second part, which is devoted to prison management, that the author excels. He not only shows a much wider knowledge of the subject, but it is quite evident that this is the part of his work which has interested him the most, and on which he has spent the most time. He has not contented himself with a careful perusal of the literature, both English and German, of his subject, but he has personally visited all the important English prisons and talked with all the most noted of the English prison authorities, among whom are specially to be mentioned Sir Edmond Du Cane, the present head of the English prison system, and Captain Harvey, the governor of the great convict prison of Wormwood Scrubbs, devoted entirely to the keeping of prisoners during the stage of solitary confinement. Dr. Aschrott's treatment of the subject of prison management is altogether admirable. One chapter is devoted to prison organization, where an

account is given of the present centralization in the management of prisons, which, it will be remembered, have since 1877 been taken under the direct charge of the central government in order that some system and order might be introduced into prison administration; another chapter is devoted to "prison arrangements," under which heading such matters as supervision, specialization of prisons for different classes of prisoners, prison architecture and the cost of the prisons are treated. The third and last chapter is devoted to the treatment of prisoners, and is on the whole the most interesting in the entire book.

Although English penal science makes a distinction between what are known as "convict prisoners" and "local prisoners," as a result of which each class of prisoners is placed in a separate and independent set of prisons, still the ideas which underlie the treatment of each of these classes of prisoners are the same. These are, in the first place, that criminal punishment shall be such as to exercise a deterrent effect on the community at large. Therefore the treatment of prisoners shall not be such as to make their lot in any particular as good or as comfortable as that of an honest laborer, however poor he may be. In the second place, while the deterrent effect of the punishment is always to be kept in view, it is not to be lost sight of that much may be done during the prisoner's residence in a penal institution towards a reform of his character and towards making him capable of joining the ranks of society, at the time of his dismissal, as an honest and willing laborer. In order to meet these ends the term for which the prisoner is sentenced is, when long enough, divided into three parts. The first of these is known as the term of solitary confinement. During this period, whose length varies with the length of the sentence, but which never, whatever its length, exceeds nine months, the prisoner is kept in his cell apart from all other prisoners and is obliged to work at some suitable occupation. The purpose of thus confining him is to awaken, if possible, a feeling of penitence for what he has done, and a desire to reform in the future. During the period of solitary confinement his fare and the conveniences of his cell are much more limited than they are later, the hope being that the misery of his present condition will be such as to keep continually before his mind the fact that he is atoning for his misdeeds. After the period of solitary confinement has expired, the prisoner is allowed to work with comrades, although at night no one is allowed to share his cell. The remainder of his sentence is served out in this way in work with companions, but during this time, in so far as he behaves himself and refrains from actual disobedience of the regulations of the prison, he is more or less quickly advanced to stages, as they are called, in each of which the privileges accorded to prisoners vary; the rule being that the more advanced the prisoner is, the greater the privileges

he shall enjoy. The passage from one stage to another depends on an elaborate marking system graded for the most part according to the industry of the prisoner. In this way the attempt is made to instill into his mind the belief that his condition is dependent in the main upon himself, since a prisoner by attending to the duties assigned to him and doing his work faithfully and promptly may lessen the term of imprisonment by nearly one-fourth. Those prisoners who by good conduct are thus enabled to lessen the term for which they were imprisoned are, at the expiration of the term served, discharged conditionally; that is, they remain, for the remainder of the term for which they were originally sentenced, under the supervision of the police, to whom they must report their changes of residence. During this time they must also refrain from going in bad company, and must make it evident that they intend to become harmless, if not useful, members of the society against which they have rebelled. This is, in brief, the system of treatment of prisoners which Dr. Aschrott so ably describes, and is termed by penologists the "progressive system," its main idea being to awaken in the prisoner the desire to lead a right life after the time of his discharge.

One thing which at this time deserves special notice in the treatment of prisoners is the method adopted by the English government for their employment at productive industry. The same complaints have heretofore been raised in England which are now being raised in the state of New York, and which have led to the abolition of contract labor in our prisons. This system of employing prisoners has also been abolished in England, and has given place to the state account system, in accordance with which the prisoners are set at work at things which some other department of the government can use. Thus the convicts make mail-bags for the post-office, do book binding for the government printing office, and so on, while a very large part of them are employed in the building of important public works such as those at Dover, or in the reclamation of the moors at Dartmoor. In this way their work does not come into direct competition with that of the laboring man, since the articles made by prison labor are not put upon the market and sold, but are consumed by the government. Of course I would not be understood as meaning that this method of employing prisoners does not really affect the price of labor to some extent, since the labor which is done by the convicts would otherwise have to be paid for by the government, and thus the demand for honest labor would be greater than under the present system. But since the state consumes all of the articles made in its prisons, the articles manufactured are not thrown immediately upon the market, and English workmen, so Dr. Aschrott says, do not feel that they are injured by competition with the prisons.

FRANK J. GOODNOW.